

The Pocahontas Times

If thou wouldst read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills.—Longfellow.

Vol. 25, No 15

Marlinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, November 15 1906

\$1.00 A Year

NOTES BY THE WAY

Second Paper

Thursday morning ushered in an ideal October day, being the 25th of the month, 1906. As Miss Lillie Milligan was on her way to the Dunmore school, I took her dinner basket and as we were on the way, we met Capt. Swecker, who seemed to be in finest feather. He congratulated the young teacher very effusively upon having a new scholar, and just as he was about to expatiate with great swelling words upon the contrast between the small dinner basket, and the amplified gastronomic capacities of the new scholar once a man, and twice a boy, he was interrupted by a hurry call to the phone. It turned out to be an order for a burial outfit, as Floyd Curry had just died at his father's, Morgan Curry in the Glade Hill vicinity, a victim of typhoid fever.

On my way back I left a request at the post office with Mrs Mary Hull, for Marlon Gum to call at the Pritchard home, and let me go with him to Sitlington. His one horse vehicle was loaded to repletion with trunk, valises, parcels and small boxes filled with game. In addition to all this, there was a skittish unsaddled filly to be led. Just as the fording was reached trains coming down and coming up were making the over looking hills thrill with sounds I hope never to hear again. With a presence of mind well nigh heroic, the station agent confronted the situation running with a speed born of desperation he ran quite a distance, flagged the up coming train and had the down coming construction train side tracked.

Had anything happened the agent in this head long race, in an instant the construction train would have been a down coming train of destruction in a head on collision. Just as we made the fording, the construction train came in sight and preempted the railway crossing, and we had to wait until the two trains could pass. In the meanwhile the led animal had one of the severest hysterical attacks any nervous creature ever had, and not collapse into a fainting trance. The post-halter stood like a stone wall.

It would be a good idea to honor such a horse with a stonewall amendment or tab to his name.

local pulled out like a scared rabbit from the yelping bounds. In a minute or two after the Sitlington tangle was straightened out and the track cleared, the passenger rolls in with all possible pomp and circumstance well befitting the sublime scenery of the mountains on an ideal October noon tide. Presiding Elder Tyler was the only passenger ticketed for that station, being on his way to Quarterly Meeting at Wesley Chapel, a few miles east of Dunmore. He greeted me with much cordiality. His "carriages" were an overcoat and heavy valise. Between us, Marion enabled him to understand what arrangements were in hand for his getting to Dunmore. That saddle on the platform was for him, the horse was penned up in the log stable back of the depot, which had been led from Dunmore by Marion. While Marion was saddling, Benick Kerr put in his appearance, about ready to start to Dunmore with his team, and proposed to see the valise safely placed in the Myers store. In the meantime Marion Gum led up the spirited hysterical high stepper to the platform, and the Elder soon showed what a master of the situation he could be, when a nice horse was to be managed. I volunteered my good offices by going to the water-edge, with the promise of going in and pulling him out if anything should happen. I suggested he should fix his gaze on a little tree on the opposite side, and keep his attention on it. It was beautiful to see how nicely and safely he made the crossing.

Long as I remember anything I expect to have this incident in memory. May it be when the good Brother Tyler and I shall have come to the "one more River for to cross" fix our believing gaze on the tree that stands on Calvary's brow, and keep it there until we leave "the swellings of Jordan" behind us. I now felt that all had now left me to the wee small hours aye, that resplendent October noon, I had placed a box in the sunshine and was in the act of getting out my writing materials for a few wayside notes, and beguile the time until 3:40 p. m. when the evening train would be due.

To my surprise, my reveries were interfered with by the presence of the pleasant hustling young agent in charge of the station looking to find out what had become of me. He requested the pleasure of my company as his guest to dinner, which was about ready. Upon doing as he requested me, I soon found I was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Worth Nottingham. Mrs. Mary Nottingham, our hostess turned out to be a daughter of the interesting aged mother, that I had visited in June and to whom reference was had in some wayside notes. Mrs. Nottingham made it so pleasant for me that I spent most of the waiting hours at her home.

Her collection of potted plants would be an ornament anywhere. Her orange tree has four or five thrifty oranges coming on, and her lemon plant is as vigorous as if it were growing under southern skies. This lady made it pleasant to me. For I was convinced that I was not in her way, for she went about her home duties as industriously as if I were far away. If I live, I am going there again, for this is the treatment that suits my taste precisely, and is just the way ladies who do all their own household work should be expected to treat their visitors.

W. T. P.

Old Virginia is to have a home-coming and we may be sure that it will eclipse them all. In medieval times the Jew oppressed as he was and persecuted, would not have changed bloods with Hapsburg or Valois, or any of the royal families of the Gentile world. And so your Virginian is proud of his State as the Jew of his race. And there is much reason for it. Virginia is the most illustrious story of all the sisterhood of America Commonwealths.—Washington Post.

PROCEEDINGS

County Sunday School Convention.

The Pocahontas county Sunday School Convention met in the Presbyterian church at Marlinton, October 15th at 2 p. m.

The sessions were well attended and were ably presided over by the president of the association Rev. J. D. Pope. Many questions of practical interest were discussed and in the interchange of experiences and observations of the Sunday School workers present many valuable suggestions were made and it is believed much good was accomplished in the arousing an interest in and increasing the efficiency of the Sunday School forces of our county.

The Convention had the pleasure and privilege of having that indefatigable worker in this great cause, Mr. W. C. Shaffer, General Secretary for West Virginia, with them. Mr. Shaffer is enthusiastic and his enthusiasm is contagious. He is a practical Sunday school man and knows how to enter into the difficulties of most people in the work. He had general charge of the meetings and when any of those expected to take part in the program failed to appear, Mr. Shaffer took the place and filled it to the satisfaction of all present.

Those interested in primary work in the Sunday School were greatly disappointed that Miss Martha V. Graham who has charge of this branch of the State work could not be present and demonstrate her faculty in this department.

Among those who addressed the Convention, we may mention Rev. G. W. Marston, Rev. W. T. Price, D. D., Rev. Geo. P. Moore, all of whom were listened to with pleasure and profit.

President J. D. Pope appointed the following committees.

On Resolutions: Rev. J. C. Johnson, Mrs. E. W. Guilford, Miss Gertrude Smith.

On elections of officers: Rev. G. W. Marston, R. B. Slavin, M. F. Ruckman.

On finances: Rev. G. W. Marston, Rev. Geo. P. Moore, Walter Grimes.

The above Committees submitted their reports which were adopted.

Report of committee on Resolutions as follows: Your Committee would respectfully report:

1 That we note with gratification the good services which have been by the officers of this convention and the State Organization and the progress which has blessed this effort.

2 We would call special attention to the emphasis which has been placed on the subject of Teachers Training and the Home Department and would design that all of our school organization these Departments as early as possible.

3 Knowing the Sunday School is widely influenced by the way in which the Sabbath is observed we would urge that our school exert every effort to inculcate a proper regard for the Sabbath and by teaching and example bring about a genuine hallowing of God's day.

4 We would recommend that the Convention take under consideration the question setting an earlier date for our County Conventions so that the schools may not be closed before the convention meets.

5 We would resolve that the sincere thanks of this Convention be tendered the christian people of Marlinton for their cordial hospitality and generous entertainment and would pray God's blessing may richly abide upon them.

J. C. JOHNSON President, Rev. G. W. Marston, Secretary, Rev. J. C. Johnson, Treasurer, Dr. C. G. Cook, Department Secretaries: Primary and Junior, J. C. Lourey, Secretary Training, Rev. H. Elshurst.

Executive committee: Talbert

Statistical reports were received from twelve Sunday schools. It is a cause of great regret that the statistical reports are not more complete so that a full review of the Sunday School work of the county could be had.

The time and place of the next meeting of the Convention was left open, The Convention closed Tuesday afternoon, October 16th. J. C. J.

Railroad in Highland County.

An engineer corps has been in Highland county for some months looking for a line from W. Va. eastward. The auspices under which they were sent out seems not to be known. They are supposed to be sent out by the Davis and Elkins interests, and this may be true. Last week Mr. Henry G. Davis, Mr. R. C. Kernes and Col. John T. McGraw took horses so the dispatches say, and rode from Webster Springs up Elk river into Pocahontas county, reaching the railroad at Clover Lick. This for a man in his eighties, as Mr. Davis is, would seem as if he had something in view. A line from Gasaway on Elk to a connection with the C. & O. at Sitlington or Clover Lick, or Marlinton, is not half so gigantic a proposition as the road from Parsons to Blackwater, to Hendricks, which was the first road Mr. Davis ever built, nor indeed over the Alleghany mountain to Back Creek in Highland county. But trouble begins at the top of Alleghany mountain and from there into the Valley of Virginia the line is one of difficulty and great cost. We worked that out fully when with the Chesapeake Western Railway. We have heard that Mr. Elkins sent engineers into Highland county four years ago to survey a line from the head of Greenbrier river in Pocahontas county across the Alleghany into Highland by Monterey east to Harrisonburg, and gave them no limitation save that they must keep within a certain grade.

His engineer worked faithfully and went over and over every inch of ground and when he had been over it told Mr. Elkins that such a line was possible, but that it was much like digging the Panama canal. This of course ended matters for a while but this is the day of railway building. Over 22,000 miles of new road are now under construction in the United States, and this means much more. There is an open way through Highland for a railroad. Lying as it does about midway between the C. & O. and B. & O. there is ample room for a through line equal in possibilities to either, but the mountains are high, the tunnels will be long, and the cuts and fills in some places enormous. Yet it should come. It has always been our belief, however, as we said of Pocahontas county, that the first line to be built will be a north and south line. We believe Highland county will be first developed by a line from Romney to Covington which is easy, feasible, and inviting. It would give ample facilities to the county and do more for it, we think, than any cross line could. Highland should always work for this, and let an east and west line go for the time being.—Stanton Spectator.

From the Recorder we learn that McDowell was the stone of one of the few murderers ever committed in the County of Highland, last Friday. An old negro named Calvin Morgan had made some insulting remarks about the wife of one James Siron, a white woman who bore a very unsavory reputation. A few hours afterward some one called the old negro from his house and shot him with a load of shot. He died in a few hours, and in an after-mortem statement the murdered man accused Siron, as did a number of other negroes who were in the house at the time. Siron is now in jail at Monterey, awaiting further investigation by the grand jury. He is about thirty five years of age, and has ever borne a bad reputation.

The Teachers Professional Rights

Teachers have certain professional rights which school officers and the public frequently fail to recognize. To state the matter bluntly the teacher knows better how a school ought to be run and how a subject ought to be taught than school officers and the public do. This is their professional business, and they have the right to expect it to be recognized. This is true of the city superintendent and it is true of the county teacher, if either is worthy of the place he holds.

Both of them must be judged by results, and they have the right to be permitted to use their own methods. The interference of outsiders is injurious and it is often impertinent. It is the business of school officers to secure the best teachers possible, but it is not their business to tell the teacher how to teach or how to run the schools. That is professional right of the teacher.

The work of many a splendid superintendent, principal or teacher has been crippled and sometimes ruined by the interference of school boards who have no more knowledge of the professional side of education than they have of the fine art of painting or the rules of musical composition. Every once in a while we see an example of it in our own West Virginia vineyard.

To mention some minor cases we have heard of a number of country school teachers who undertook to give the primary pupils, the mere babies of their schools, the privilege of playing in the yard between their periods of recitation, the patrons heard of it and were shocked, and officious trustees ordered the teacher to "stop this foolishness and put the children to studying their books." Just as though a two year old baby should or could sit still for hours and study a book!

If the teacher knows anything about teaching, he knows better than the ignorance and prejudice of the neighborhood, backed up by the school officers who think they know how schools should be run, compels him to make martyrs of the infants. Larger examples, affecting whole city administrations, might be mentioned. If the lawyer and the doctor have professional rights, so has the trained teacher.—School Journal.

News has been received by the Reclamation service of the Geological Survey that engineers have at last succeeded in closing the break in the banks of the Colorado River, which for more than a year past has been flowing northward into the Salton Sink and threatened to form an international lake on the borders of Mexico bigger than other bodies of fresh water in the United States, except Lake Superior. It is a tribute to the size of this country that millions of people in the United States do not realize that such a catastrophe has been impending. But it has and the accident was entirely owing to the peculiar formation of the country near the southern end of the Colorado river.

North and west of Yuma in southern California lies the Salton Sink, the lowest section of which is 480 feet below sea level, deeper than the Dead Sea. Several years ago an irrigation company undertook to divert water from the waters of the Colorado into this low lying valley, which, as had been said, is bigger than the whole area of Lake Michigan. The ditch was dug and the company prospered but something over a year ago a phenomenal flood in the Colorado, finding a channel already cut for itself, promptly turned into the ditch and carved itself a new course over a mile wide down hill to the northward and into the depths of the ancient Salton Sea. Every effort was made to get the river back into its proper channel, but the river would not be turned. During the past year and a half, it has been running directly northward and filling up this immense basin. It has already drowned out the salt works which were in the bed of the old sea, and has flooded farmlands to the value of several million dollars.

First American Horses.

Whenever a European nation finds itself threatened with war, one of the first acts of its government is to send agents to the United States for the purpose of purchasing horses and mules for army service. The animals which are sent abroad are the result of this activity and thus afforded opportunities to see the countries of their ancestors, for all horses in the United States come of Old World stock, there being none on the Western Hemisphere at the time of America's discovery by Columbus.

The first horses ever brought into any part of the land now known as the United States were landed in Florida by Cabeza de Vecas, in 1537 forty two in number all of which perished. Florida also received the second importation brought by De Soto in 1539.

In 1609 the English landed at Jamestown, in Virginia having seven horses with them. In 1629 Higginson imported horses and other domestic animals into the colony of Massachusetts Bay. Four years earlier the Dutch Company had imported them to New York.

Up to 1773 scarcely any mules were to be found in the American Colonies. In 1783, upon General Washington's first retirement, he became convinced that the work animals used in the agriculture of the Southern States were not equal to the demands made upon them, and so he set to work to remedy the defect.

He introduced mules in the place of horses the mules, it was thought, being found to live longer, require less food, be less liable to disease, and prove more economical for the agriculturist.

As soon as the views of this illustrious farmer were made known, the King of Spain sent him a present of a fine jack and two jennets, chosen from the royal stud at Madrid. At the same time Lafayette sent out a jack and jennet from the island of Malta. This jack called the Knight of Malta, was a superb black animal, with the form of a stag and the ferocity of a tiger.

The Spanish animal, the Royal Gift, was sixteen hands high, gray heavily made and sluggish in disposition.

Washington crossed the breeds and obtained a favorite jack, called Compound, which united the size and strength of the Gift with the courage and activity of the Knight. One wagon team of four mules the offspring of Compound and General Washington's coach mares, brought at the sale of Washington's effects, eight hundred dollars.

School officers should never buy books for school libraries. Beware of book agents. The book they try to sell to you are almost certain to be unsuitable for school children, and their prices are beyond reason. Don't be caught by them. During the past two or three years a good many boards of education in West Virginia have been badly imposed upon by smooth book agents. Once in a while a county superintendent makes the mistake of recommending the books handled by these agents. Such official action looks very bad.

And don't be caught by the agents of charts. Better increase the salaries of the teachers and get teachers who can make their own charts as they go along. At least nine out of ten of the charts offered to school boards are utterly worthless. Teachers do not use them when they do have them. Good teachers don't need them and poor teachers can't use them. Beware of the chart agent as well as the book agent. West Virginia has wasted thousands and thousands of dollars on worthless charts. If the money had been paid to the teachers to enable them to prepare themselves better for the work the schools would have been in vastly better condition.—School Journal.

The town of Glady has decided not to incorporate by a vote of 24 to 24.

Children's Home

Executive Committee.—Hon. Geo. W. Atkinson, LL. D. Pres't; Rev. R. D. Roller, D. D., V. Pres't; Hon. H. G. Davis, Rev. T. C. Johnson, D. D., Hon. H. C. McWhorter, Hon. Geo. E. Price; Secretary, J. D. Baines, Treasurer, Col. J. Q. Dickinson; Rev. N. O. Sower, State Sup't; Office Secretary, Mrs. Lillian R. Sowers.

The above Society was organized in 1896 for the care and training of the orphan and homeless children of West Virginia.

Shortly after organization Hon. H. G. Davis, the great friend of West Virginia orphans, gave the Society a home for their unfortunate little ones, which is located in Charleston, W. Va., supplementing this generous gift by the yet more helpful donation of \$100 per month since 1896. To this first building Mr. Davis has just added a two-story building thus greatly increasing our capacity for caring for orphan children.

Into this home we have received 350 homeless children; they are being admitted at the rate of 6, 8, 10 and sometimes 15 per month.

We have a fine lot of bright little boys, ranging from 1 year to 11 years old. We are anxious to find homes for these homeless little ones.

Dear Reader:—Please help us to care for them. You can do something—give a home or money. Can you not become a parent to one of them? Perhaps you have a good home and no child to share it with you, you can make the little one a blessing to yourself. They are pleading daily for a new home, new papa and new mama. Will you let us plead with you for them? If you will give one or more of them a place in your home and hearts' affection, address the Superintendent. If you cannot do so much, then aid us by sending a Thankgiving Donation by check or P. O. M. O. to N. O. Sower, State Superintendent, 118 Washington St., Charleston W. Va.

A hunt from the Sweet Chalybeate Springs started last Saturday morning. Bears had been tracked several days in the neighboring cornfields, making inroads on the crops, and the party started for them at midnight, taking stand a quarter of a mile apart on Big Ridge mountain, near the dividing line of Virginia and West Virginia.

The dogs struck the trail soon after the hunt began working four or five hours. The largest bear of the three trailed showed considerable fight and only after four shots did the beast give up the fight. She stood over six feet and weighed over two hundred pounds and was killed by Carter B. Hunter.

The smaller ones took to the woods but were finally overtaken, one having climbed a large tree and the other an old log for safety.

Editor Times: I send you a cedar shingle, which was cut from a tree that had 22 cords of 54 inch bolts. Each cord of bolts will make six thousand shingles, and at the present price of shingles which is 10¢ per 1000 you can figure for yourself what such a tree is worth to the mill man. The company that cut this shingle, own and run 49 shingle mills which cut all the way from 100000 to 600000 shingles to the mill per day.

Yours, J. B. SILVA, Machias, Wash.

Law is No Good

The Bluefield Telegraph is authority for this: The legislature which passed the present registration law ought to go down in the history of the state as the Blackhead Bunch. It is cumbersome, ineffective and absolutely worthless as a law to prevent illegal voting. It is an annoyance to the people and a handicap on every voter, to say nothing of the waste of the people's money in making the list.

Autumn

By HENRY W. LONGFELLOW
Thou comest, Autumn, heralded by the rain,
With banners, by great gales incessant fanned.
Brighter than brightest silks of Samarcand,
And stately oxen harnessed to thy wain!
Thou standest, like Imperial Charlemagne,
Upon thy bridge of gold; thy royal hand
Outstretched with benedictions o'er the land,
Blessing the farms through all thy domain.
Thy shield is the red harvest moon, suspended
So long beneath the heavens' ever-changing eaves,
Thy spers are by the farmer's prayers attended;
Like flames upon an altar shine the sheaves;
And, following thee, in thy oration splendid,
Thine almoner, the wind, scatters o'er the golden leaves!

Pauther Gap, a bad community near Millboro Springs, settled by squatters who live in huts erected for laborers of the now abandoned stone quarries and who work when they are hungry, was the scene of a double tragedy on election day. In one of the shanties a man named Forbes lived with his family and son-in-law named Hicks. Hicks had become too intimate with his sister-in-law, a girl of about fourteen, and was compelled to move. He and his wife went to another house, and were preparing to go to house-keeping when they quarreled, and the wife started to return to her father's house. Hicks intercepted her and shot her through with a shof gun. He then turned the gun against his own breast, and fell dead over the body of his wife. Hicks was about thirty and his wife twenty years of age.

John Clarkson, of Pocahontas county, with his daughter and little son, are visiting relatives near Bath Alum Springs.

John L. Landes, of Mountain Grove, was the successful bidder on the mail route from Warm Springs to Hunterville, his bid is \$792 per year, or \$66 per month. It will require two men and two horses to carry this mail.—Enterprise.

One hundred and two cases of smallpox and exposures have been reported to the officials at Hinton.

George W. Weese, of Tuckahoe Greenbrier county, has been arrested and taken to Charleston for passing counterfeit money. His particular brand was lead dollars.

Dressmaking. I am prepared to do dressmaking on second floor in building across the street from the Methodist church. Would be glad to have the ladies call. (Miss) ANNE WILSON.

Administrator Sale. On the 17th day of November, 1906, beginning at 10 o'clock, a. m. I will sell to the highest bidder at public auction the following personal property: 2 good work horses, 1 good milk cow, will be fresh in spring. 3 calves, 1-2 horse wagon, 1 set double harness, 1 cider mill, good as new, Farming utensils, household and kitchen furniture, and many other articles too numerous to mention.

Terms of sale: 12 months with interest and good personal security. MARTHIA C. McCOMB, Adminr of John McComb dec'd, Swecker Auctioneer.

Notice. All persons having claims of any kind against the estate of John W. McComb will please present the same in writing to the undersigned in care of the Campbell Lumber Company, Marlinton W. Va. MARTHIA C. McCOMB, Adminr.